

(1)

**The Duty of Subjects**

2000  
1685

REINFORC'T,

**Especially in the Choice of Their**

**Representatives**

To Sit in

**PARLIAMENT,**

IN A

**LETTER to a FRIEND.**

Occasioned by

**His Majesty's**

**Most Gracious Declaration in Council,**

**SIR,**

**I** Have sent You a Present here Inclos'd ; 'tis of small Bulk, but of great Importance : Had such a one been sent You some years since, when the Peoples Ears were fill'd with nothing else but *Popery* and *Exclusion* ; and could you have had it well attested for Genuine and Authentick ; you would have entertain'd it with a hearty Welcome.

'Tis a Copy of His Majesty's most Gracious Declaration ; a Declaration so Mature and Seasonable, so Full and Well-advis'd, that we must not look upon it as the Crafty Artifice of a *Politick Usurper* , Nor as the violent *Extortion* of the Passionate and Mistaken *Faction* that oppos'd Him : But as the Natural Emanation of His Princely Mind and Heroick Generosity , condescending to ob-

A viat



viate the affected Weakness of some, and to Cure that which was really so in others.

Herein His Majesty has done us the Honour to own our affection to the *Monarchy*, and our Zeal in contending for the *Government as now Established in Church and State*: and he is pleas'd to Remind us, That in his own Practice, to the utmost hazard of *Life and Fortune*, he made himself our *Grand Exemplar*, when he was in the station of a *Subject*. So that *His Title to the Crown by Succession*, has been rarely Embellish'd by *His Merits*. And *This* the Gratitude of the Nation did once acknowledge.

But what is more eminently remarkable, ev'n since the highest *Providence* has Cloth'd him with the *Sovereign Power*, he has prevented our Expectation, and gone before us in *Protesting His Pious Resolutions*, to maintain those *Interests of Religion and Property*, which we account the dearest to us,

Observe his own Words; where, after a most endearing Promise to follow his late Majesty's Example in *Clemency and Tenderness to His People*, He goes on: *I have been reported to be a Man for Arbitrary Power; But that is not the only Story has been made of me: And I shall make it my Endeavours to Preserve this Government both in Church and State, as it is now by Law Established. I know the Principles of the Church of England are for Monarchy, and the Members of it have shew'd themselves Good and Loyal Subjects; therefore I shall always take Care to Defend and Support it. I know too, That the Laws of England are sufficient to make the King as Great a Monarch as I can wish: And as I shall never depart from the Just Rights and Prerogative of the Crown, so I shall never Invade any Mans Property; I have often heretofore ventured my Life in Defence of this Nation, and I shall still go as far as any man in preserving it in all its Just Rights and Liberties.*

His Inflexible Justice, with the rare Complexion of his other Princely Vertues, have worthily been admired with equal Love and Reverence; and these have hitherto been the Support of our *Just Confidence*: but now he has vouchsafed to give us his *Royal Word*, which flowing from a Voluntary Inclination to be Gracious, has hitherto had the Honour to be esteem'd *Inviolable and Sacred*. We find that the most plausible Pretences of Jealousie, in Men of honest Minds, do vanish into Dream and meer Delusion; and we cannot but in reason acquiesce in such assurance, with the Joy of a full and hearty Satisfaction.

We know the *Suggestions of Designers* had rais'd a prejudice so strong in some Credulous and Well-meaning Persons, that they grew too obstinat to be driven to their Duty; but we doubt not such Encouragements as have been freely heap'd upon them, will  
in

Transcribed by J. C. 102



in a little time melt the most Obdurate, and make them grow so Tractable, as to be won, and easily led by the *Attractive* of such Great and Wise *Examples*.

In short, we see, Sir, that the *God of Peace and Order* has been pleas'd to *Decide the great Point of Succession*, by his own good *Providence*, according to his own standing *Law and Ordinance*: Herein, he never call'd upon *His Royal Highness* to enter a Caution for his *Good Behaviour*, which seems to be a sufficient Baffle to the Wit and Malice of all *fierce Excluders*.

*His Royal Highness* has not been very forward to declare himself in the matter of this *Debate*, and *His Reservedness* has been made a *Riddle*, and subject to as many *Readings* and *Descants*, as Mens fancy or humour can invent.

I shall only observe this in the *Case*. Some Men have their privat *Sentiments*, which they will not generally be oblig'd to account for: tho such Men be singular in their *Carriage*, yet their *Design* may be very innocent, and free from mischief.

That *The Protestant Party* is of some moment in swaying the *Balance of Christendom*, is no Secret; and if *the Church of England* be of any advantage to *His Majesty* herein, as no doubt it is (when *Matters* are duely weigh'd) we may be confident, he will not part with an Interest of that Importance of Nothing: Besides, his great *Experience* tells him, *That the Gates of Hell stand in the way to Rome*, as well as to *Churches* of another *Denomination*; and 'tis not a blind *Fate* that can secure us from the *Danger* that *Threatens* us from thence, but our own *Diligence*, and a prudent *Conduct* in the *Duties of a Christian Conversation*. And we may take it for an infallible Maxim, That his *Magnanimity*, and the sense of his own *Greatness*, will never suffer him to sink so low, as to become a *Vassal* to his *Holiness*, as their *Canon-law* does make him.

What Measures *the Dissenters* intend to take, we shall understand more certainly by their ensuing *Election of Representatives*; for in such voluntary and equivocal *Generations*, Men commonly follow the fancy of their own *Likeness*, and we may say of such, as the *Psalmist* says of *Idols*, *They that make them are like unto them, and so are all such as put their Trust in them*.

We are sure, such as are well affected to the *King* and *Church*, will not chuse their *Enemies* to Vote in their *Concerns*; they will not be guilty of such a *Solacism* in their *Practice*: And is it probable, on the other side, that such as have been in *actual Rebellion* against the *Crown*, and have made a Spoil of all *Sacred Establishments* in the *Church*, and embroil'd their *Native Countrey* into a *Brutish Confusion*; is it probable that such Men should be fit *Instruments* to settle us in that *Splendour* and *Tranquillity* which so ancient and *Renown'd a Monarchy* may justly *Challenge*? He that reflects upon the *Havock*, such Men have lately made amongst us, if he be well in his Wits, can ne'r believe it.



I must not be understood of such as have seen their Errour, and retracted it ; but of the hardy, and unrelenting ; and you may assure your self, such whose Fingers are still itching at *Church-lands*, and the Revenue of the *Crown* ; such as can serve God by none but a *Model* of their own *conceiving*, and have worldly Ends to serve by such *Means* ; they'll still Sail as the Wind serves, by the same *Compass*.

Indeed the *Scheme* of their *Principles* is so legible in the *Commentaries* which they have put upon them by their *Practice* ; and their *Hypocrisie* is so grossly betray'd by their *Contradictions* ; and their *Persons* so expos'd to the shame and scorn of all *Loyal* and *Honest Men* ; that in *very Modesty*, at least for one *whole Age*, they ought to retire behind the *Curtain* to furnish themselves with new Habits of *Disguise*, and dress up their *Scenes* of *Sedition* with *fresh Pretences*, before they venture to act the *same part* over a *second time*.

But if their *Zeal* does so far out-run their *Wit* and *Policy*, that they must needs bring their *old Actors* upon the *Stage*, to rehearse the *Bloody Tragedy*, and keep it still in *Memory* ; or if they will be *whedling* a fresh Set of *Proselytes* to espouse their *Good old Cause*, and set on their *young Cubs* to take the *Scent* of the *late Rebellion*, and *hunt* upon't *dry-foot* ; there's little to be said to it : 'tis an *evident Sign* that the *Republican Wheel* is still in motion, and their *Mystery of Iniquity* very earnest at work amongst us ; and our *prudent* and *Watchful Governours* are highly concern'd to have an *Eye open* to observe it.

F I N I S.

---

London, Printed for Robert Clavell, at the Peacock in St. Paul's Church-yard, 1685.

Edinburgh, Re-printed by the Heir of Andrew Anderson, Printer to His most Sacred Majesty, anno DOM. 1685.

Robert Clavell  
Rog. Ma. D. Clavell

1685

